UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/645,953	08/22/2003	Vipin Samar	OR03-10201	8253

			EXAMINER
51067	7590	08/04/2006	ROSE, HELENE ROBERTA

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2163	

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *05 June 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *22 August 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

1.   Claims 1-24 is pending; Claims 1,2,7,9,10,15,17,18 and 23 have been amended; No claims were

added, nor cancelled.

2.   Applicant's arguments, filed on 6/05/2006, with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered, but

are not persuasive.

Claim Objections

3.   In view of amendment made to claim 2 to overcome objection, the examiner withdraws

the pending objection as it relates to claim 2.

4.   In view of amendments made to claims 7,15 and 23 to overcome objection, the examiner

withdraws the pending objection as it relates to claims 7, 15, and 23.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C 112

5.   In view of amendment made to claim 2 to overcome 35 U.S.C 112 rejection, the

examiner withdraws the pending rejection as it relates to claim 2.

6.   In view of amendments made to claims 7,15 and 23 to overcome to overcome 35 U.S.C

112 rejection, the examiner withdraws the pending rejection as it relates to claims 7, 15, and 23.

Information Disclosure Statement

7.   In view of the information disclosure statement filed on 7/9/2003, not being considered

due to informalities, the examiner respectfully considers the new submitted IDS form. The

Information Disclosure has been placed in the application as being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C 102

8.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9.   Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scheussler et al

(US Patent No. 6,366,950/Date of Patent April 2, 2002).

Claims 1,9, and 17:

        Regarding claims 1,9, and 17, Scheussler teaches an apparatus for protecting an item of

private information in a database (Figure 3, all features, wherein the identification number, user,

email, and authentication are all within the database, Scheussler), wherein the item of private

information is used as a key (Figure 3, diagram 32A and diagram 32D, wherein an index is a

sequence of key pointers pairs where each pointer points to a record in the database that contains

the key value in a particular field, column 10, lines 13-22, wherein the index is sorted on the key

values to allow rapid searching for a particular key value, Scheussler), for retrieving data from

the database (column 10, lines 29-32, wherein retrieve the ID number from the processor and

prepares a message to be sent to the server, wherein the server includes the identification

database defined in Figure 2, Scheussler) comprising:

        a receiving mechanism configured to receive the item of private information (column

6,lines 58-59, wherein the computer receives the email message, column 2, lines 35-37, wherein

the client module that generates the message includes identification number, column 2, line 37,

wherein the client computer includes a client module generates a message and sends the message over the communications medium, and column 6, lines 58-59, wherein the computer receives a email message, Scheussler);

Scheussler discloses all the limitations above, as well a hashing mechanism. However, Scheussler is silent with respect to a hashing mechanism (column 5, lines 44-46, Scheussler) configured to create a hash of the item of private information **at a database**; and a storage mechanism configured to store the hash of the item of private information in **the** database (Figure 4, diagram 400 and 403 and paragraph [0046], wherein at least one hash table, diagram 403 as a search index with pointers into the table or group of database records, and paragraph [0047], wherein a hash table may include an array of 8-byt pointers to individual database records, Balogh). On the other hand Balogh discloses a hashing configured to create a hash of the item of private information **at a database** (Figure 4, diagram 400 and paragraph [0046], wherein hash buckets may be created using singly linked list of hash chain pointers, Balogh); and a storage mechanism configured to store the hash of the item of private information in **the** database (Figure 4, diagram 400 and 403 and paragraph [0046], wherein at least one hash table, diagram 403 as a search index with pointers into the table or group of database records, and paragraph [0047], wherein a hash table may include an array of 8-byt pointers to individual database records, Balogh). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to create and store hash in at a database, as disclosed by Balogh, within Scheussler system. A skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so for protecting user logs, by comparing the password inputed by user to a stored value in the database, wherien if they match a user is authenticated, and wherein if the password database was to be

compromised, it would be difficult for an intruder to recover oringal passwords as well as

creating indexes to columns to provide direct and fast access to rows.

Claims 2,10, and 18:

Regarding claims 2,10, and 18, Scheussler teaches wherein creating the hash can include

creating **at least one of a Secure Hash Algorithm-1 and a Message-Digest Algorithm 5**

(MD5) hash the hashing mechanism is configured to use SHA-1 or MD5 hashing functions

(column 10, lines 1-5, wherein the field 32B has a size of 128 bits, the ID number has a size of

44 bits, wherein fixed length is interpreted to be message digest 5, column 11, lines 46-48,

wherein authenticating procedure, column 5, lines 57-67, wherein packet addressing,

handshaking is defined to be message digest for the reason that it authenticate packet data and

column 11, lines 4-8, wherein the computer applies a hash function to the id number to convert it

to a first hash id number, Scheussler[1]).

Claims 3,11, and 19:

Regarding claims 3,11, and 19, Scheussler teaches wherein the hashing mechanism is

internal to the database (see Figure 1, diagrams 2 & 4, column 5, lines 40-45, wherein each

computer 2, 4 has appropriate application and communications software modules, wherein the

software modules include, Internet access software, cable modem software, two-way

communications software, point-to-point software, the hasher software, software to retrieve and

process the ID number from the identification module 8, Scheussler) and is transparent to an

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[1] The examiner interpret the MD5 to be wherein the field 32B has a size of 128 bits, the ID number has a size of 44 bits, correspond to the MD5 claimed since MD5 is defined to be a message digest that is a widely-used cryptographic has function with a 128-bit hash value, and as a internet standard MD5 has been employed in a wide variety of security applications, and it also commonly used to check the integrity of files (column 12, lines 17-29, Scheussler).

application (column 6, lines 21-29, wherein transparent is interpret to be a computer operation

that does not require user intervention, in which a user is unaware that it is taking place) which

manipulates the private information (column 6, lines 43-48, wherein communications software

automatically converts the email into an appropriate electronic format, Scheussler).

Claims 4,12, and 20:

Regarding claims 4,12, and 20, Scheussler teaches a query mechanism (column 9, lines

2-3) configured to perform queries containing the private information (column 9, lines 7-13,

wherein recursive query expressions, wherein recursive is defined to be a program or task that

can repeat itself indefinitely, Scheussler), wherein the query mechanism is configured to:

receive the item of private information (column 6,lines 58-59, wherein the computer

receives the email message, column 2, lines 35-37, wherein the client module that generates the

message includes identification number, column 2, line 37, wherein sending the message over

the communications medium, and column 6, lines 58-59, wherein the computer receives a email

message, Scheussler);

create a hash (column 5, lines 44-46, Scheussler) of the item of private information

(column 8, lines 43-44, Scheussler); and

query the database using the hash of the item of private information (column 8, lines 66-

67, Scheussler).

Claims 5,13, and 21:

Regarding claims 5, 13, and 21, Scheussler teaches wherein the item of private

information can include one of:

a social security number;

a driver's license number;

a passport number;

an email address (Figure 4, diagram 202 and column 6, lines 27-29, Scheussler[2]);

a person's name; and

a person's mother's maiden name.

Claims 6,14,and 22:

Regarding claims 6,14, and 22 Scheussler teaches wherein the hashing mechanism can be

further configured to combine multiple items of private information prior to creating the hash

(column 7, lines 35-40, wherein the conferencing connections can include video conferences,

voice, chat, and data connections, and wherein the contemplated that the various types of

conferences connection can be combined so that data connection is parallel to a voice

connection, Scheussler).

Claims 7,15, and 23:

Regarding claims 7,15, and 23 Scheussler discloses wherein hashing mechanism is further

configured to check a column attribute in the database to **determine that** "privacy" is enabled

and only upon being enabled, creating the hash (column 7, lines 1-6, wherein for instance the

user can create a contact list in which all authorized users are listed, and wherein if the received

ID number does not match to the listed and wherein if the received ID number does not match to

the ID number stored for an authorized user from the contact list, the email will be rejected

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[2] The examiner notes that claims 5,13, and 21 does not require full examination of all claim limitations since the claims simply states wherein the item private information can include one of the following. Therefore, only one limitation was made reference to.

which is equivalent to determine the privacy is enabled and column 14, lines 38-41, wherein the

server performs the look-up in its database and returns an authenticated email address if the look-

up email address matches to an entry correlated to the ID number in the database and Figure 3,

diagram 32C and column 2, lines 45-48, wherein status information is interpreted to be

determining if an item is available, Scheussler).

<u>Claims 8,16, and 24:</u>

Regarding claims 8,16, and 24 Scheussler teaches wherein the database is a Lightweight

Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) database (column 9, lines 45-51, wherein LDAP directory

entries are arranged in a hierarchical structure that reflects political, geographic, organizational

boundaries, while entries representing countries appear at the top of the tree while other entries

in the tree represent states or national organizations, and below them there may be entries

representing people, organizational units, printers, documents, wherein the database is

lightweight is defined to be the tree representing the directory information tree, known as DIT, to

be a distributed LDAP database that can be hosted by more than one server, Schuessler).

Prior Art of Record

(The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure)

1. Scheussler et al (US Patent No. 6,366,950) discloses a communications network includes

several computers connected to a communications medium, wherein a client computer has a

unique identification number that is embedded within a processor.

2. Balogh (US Publication No. 2003/0084039) discloses a method and system for processing

query messages over a network.

Examiner Response to Arguments

10.   Applicant's arguments filed on June 5. 2006, with respect to the rejected claims in view of the cited references have been considered but are moot in view of applicant's amended claims necessitate new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

12.   A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.
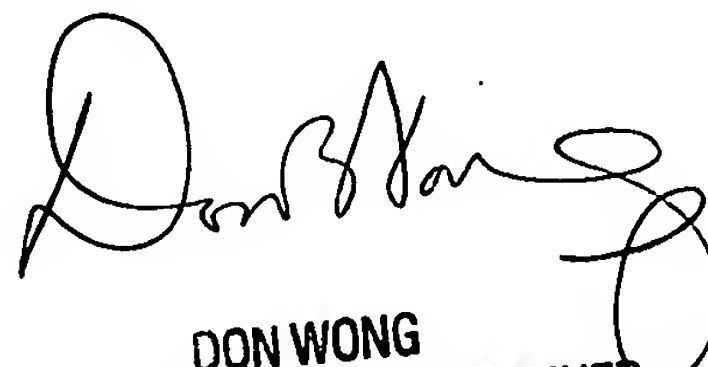
Point of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helene R. Rose whose telephone number is (571) 272-0749. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 4:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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July 26, 2006

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